

it ought to have been, for many of its members had run Arnold faster than he. It accordingly in all sincerity passed without a dissenting voice a resolution thanking Jefferson, Esquire, for his impartial, upright and attentive administration while in office, and declaring in the same manner that it entertained a high opinion of his ability, prudence and integrity as chief magistrate of the Commonwealth. For all that, his career as Governor was a sore point to Jefferson. In his Memoir the only thing he relates of the of his governorship concerns his connection with William Mary College, to which institution he was appointed in 1779. He skips his administration completely, saying that his own history of these two years would be to the history of the revolution in Virginia for the period. In regard to this subject Jefferson showed good taste, but his reason doing convict him of a conspicuous inconsistency, for he copiously of himself in all other public capacities.

Early in 1782 Jefferson left the legislature. That exculpation had been complete, yet continued brooding the attacks upon him induced a morbid state of mind practically withdrew him from all association with the Commonwealth. This course was severely criticised by his enemies, and among friends it was a source of deep regret. Colonel Mounier, neighbor, ventured in the name, of friendship to attempt to recall him to more healthy views of life; but his appeal was of no avail, for they reached Jefferson while he was experiencing the deepest sorrow of his life. In September, 1782, the one who had been in failing health since she fled from Richmond on Arnold's approach, expired. The blow was no less devastating for being expected, and he abandoned himself to excess of grief.

Two months after, Jefferson was appointed by Congress Plenipotentiary to Europe. Madison had been instrumental in bringing about the appointment. He wrote that the death of his wife had probably changed the sentiment of Mr. Jefferson with regard to public life, and that all the reasons which to his original appointment still existed. In June, 1783,